



CWHS

Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women aged 15-44 in the U.S. Annually, about 30% of murdered women are killed by their intimates. In California, 196,832 incidents of domestic violence were reported to law enforcement, and 56,892 domestic violence arrests were made in 1998¹. Since 1994, a number of California laws have been passed to protect and assist women who are victims of intimate partner abuse. For example, the Battered Women's Shelter Program was established in 1994 as a result of legislative action, and funds direct shelter services for abused women and their children and community prevention activities. In 1996, the Domestic Violence Training and Education Program was implemented to provide related training and technical assistance to probation departments, health and social service providers, court system personnel and others statewide.

The 1998 California Women's Health Survey asked women aged 18 years and older a number of questions about their relationships with their intimate partners in the previous 12 months. A "Yes" response to any question asking whether the respondent was: **pushed, had objects thrown at her, was slapped, was hit with an object, was kicked or hit, was choked, was beaten up, or was threatened with a gun or a knife** by her intimate partner in the previous 12 months was considered an indicator of IPP-DV. Women who responded that their intimate partners victimized them were then asked whether they sought

medical care and where they received it.

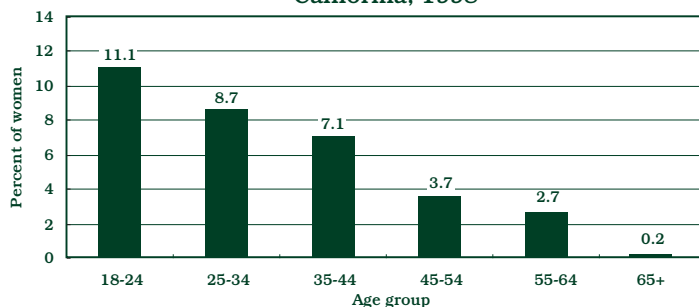
- About 6% of California adult women (approximately 697,000 women) reported that they were victims of IPP-DV in the previous 12 months. This figure is considerably higher than the national figure: The Commonwealth Fund's "1998 Survey of Women's Health" indicated that 3% of U.S. women reported experiencing intimate partner domestic abuse in the previous year.
- Only 11% of IPP-DV victims said that they sought medical care for treatment of IPP-DV, in one or more instances in the previous 12 months. Of these instances, most got help at a doctor's office (94%), followed by emergency room visits (76%), mental health care (47%) and overnight hospital stays (18%).
- About 75% of IPP-DV victims have children under 18 at home compared to 46% of the women who are not victims of IPP-DV. Victims had a substantially higher proportion of children under age 6 in their households (47%) compared to women who were not victims of IPP-DV (23%).
- Survey results suggest a strong relationship between the age of the victim and IPP-DV: younger women were more likely to report being victims than older women.

ADULT FEMALE VICTIMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER PHYSICAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (IPP-DV) CALIFORNIA, 1998

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¹ California Department of Justice, 1998 Criminal Justice Statistics

Adult Female Victims of Intimate Partner Physical Domestic Violence (IPP-DV) by Age Group California, 1998



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